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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Tuesday - 28 June 1955

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1. The Task Force of the Hoover Commission on Government Reorganization under General Mark Clark released its report on intelligence at 7 P.M. I informed both Gen. Mudge of the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Mr. Smart, Counsel to the House Armed Services Committee, that the report was in prospect and indicated that these Committees might wish to have the report referred to them in view of their jurisdiction over CIA.

2. Mr. Streibec, Assistant to Congressman Davis of Georgia, requested some information on Soviet public housing in 1954, for the Congressman to use in debate on the public housing bill. After consultation with Dr. Guthe, I have informed Mr. Streibec that the Soviet constructed 1.3 million dwelling units in 1954, of which 600,000 were state built and 700,000 were financed by state loans. I cautioned, however, that the Soviet unit was 430 square feet, considerably smaller than U.S. units. I also stated that our best estimate indicated that the Soviet spent between 3 and 5 percent of their G.N.P. on total housing in 1954.

3. Mr. Dayton Hull, of the Department of State, informed me, at the request of the Department's Director of Personnel, that while the Department would endorse the broad features of the proposed Overseas Allowances Act of 1955, they would not support the repeal of the State Department's own authorities in this field as proposed in this legislation. In the Department's opinion, these allowances authorities as authorized by the Foreign Service Act and its 1955 amendments are an integral part of State Department legislation and therefore should not pass into a separate bill.

4. The Senate has passed Sen. Humphrey's resolution establishing a Commission on Employees Security, composed of members of Congress and private citizens. The bill as passed contains safeguards which will place in the discretion of the President the problem of release of any intelligence material to the Commission if its establishment is also approved by the House.

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